

A globe is the central element, showing a cityscape with a prominent red skyscraper. Overlaid on the globe are three interlocking gears: a green one, a red one, and a blue one. The background of the entire image is a dark green field filled with a repeating pattern of small, faint, stylized icons representing various professions and fields of study, such as a doctor, a teacher, a scientist, and a farmer. The text 'OVERDRIVE' is in white, sans-serif, uppercase letters with a registered trademark symbol. The text 'ReaderWorks' is in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font, with the 'o' in 'Works' being a solid yellow circle.

OVERDRIVE®

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The Dark Man

Stephen King

Published in "Ubris", 1969 and later in Moth, 1970.

I have stridden the fuming way
of sun-hammered tracks and
smashed cinders;
I have ridden rails
and bumed sterno in the
gantry silence of hob jungles:
I am a dark man.
I have ridden rails
and passed the smuggling
of desperate houses with counterfeit chimneys
and heard from the outside
the inside clink of cocktail ice
while closed doors broke the world -
and over it all a savage sickle moon
that bummed my eyes with bones of light.
I have slept in glaring swamps
where musk-reek rose
to mix with the sex smell of rotting cypress stumps
where witch fire clung in sunken
psycho spheres of baptism -
and heard the suck of shadows
where a gutted columned house
leeches with vines
speaks to an overhung mushroom sky
I have fed dimes to cold machines
in all night filling stations
while traffic in a mad and flowing flame
streaked red in six lanes of darkness,
and breathed the cleaver hitchhike wind
within the breakdown lane with thumb levelled
and saw shadowed faces made complacent
with heaters behind safety glass

faces that rose like complacent moons
in riven monster orbits.
and in a sudden jugular flash
cold as the center of a sun
I forced a girl in a field of wheat
and left her sprawled with the virgin bread
a savage sacrifice
and a sign to those who creep in
fixed ways:
I am a dark man.